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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/641,556	08/17/2000	ANISH K. ARORA	1018.050US2	6351

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EXAMINER

PHAM, THOMAS K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2121

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/641,556

Applicant(s)

ARORA ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas K Pham

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 12, 16 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13-15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. Claims 11-17 of U.S. Application 09/641556 filed on 06/17/2000 are presented for examination.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mun U.S.

Patent No. 5,579,221.

4. As for claim 11, Mun shows an architecture for an automation system, the automation system used to remotely control and monitor power consuming devices drawing power from a power line in a building, the architecture comprising: a look-up service maintaining a database of (1) the power consuming devices including their attributes of device type and physical location (col. 9 lines 28-32), and (2) device objects corresponding to the power consuming devices including a name for each device object mapped to at least one address (col. 10 lines 30-35); a store managing information for refreshing the power consuming devices and the device objects (col. 10 lines 1-8); a publication/subscription eventing component enabling subscriptions to events related to changes in the refresh information managed by the store (col. 3 line 63 to col. 4 line 6); and, a power line monitor detecting super-imposed transmissions from the power

Art Unit: 2121

consuming devices on the power line, which signal problems with the power consuming devices (col. 10 lines 64-67).

5. As for claim 12, Mun shows the architecture of claim 11, wherein the power line monitor uses pattern-based detection for detecting unacceptable power line activity (col. 5 lines 45-52).

6. Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mun U.S. Patent No. 5,579,221.

7. As for claim 16, Mun shows a system for detecting device failures in an automation system for remotely controlling a power-consuming device in a building, the system comprising: a power line providing power to the power consuming device (col. 10 lines 64-66); a computing device in communication with the power consuming device by way of the power line and receiving from the power consuming device a first set of signals superimposed on the power line, and transmitting to the power consuming device a second set of signals superimposed on the power line (col. 10 line 66 to col. 11 line 19); and a power line monitor that detects a pattern in the first and second sets of superimposed signals and performs a predetermined action when the pattern indicates an anomaly in the automation system (col. 5 lines 45-52).

8. As for claim 17, Mun shows an automation system for remotely controlling a power consuming device in a building, the system including: a power line providing power to the power consuming device (col. 10 lines 64-66); and a computing device in communication with the power consuming device by way of the power line and receiving from the power consuming device a first set of signals superimposed on the power line, and transmitting to the power consuming device a first set of signals superimposed on the power line, and transmitting to the

Art Unit: 2121

power consuming device a second set of signals superimposed on the power line (col. 10 line 66 to col. 11 line 19), a method comprising: detecting a pattern in the first and second sets of superimposed signals; and performing a predetermined action when the pattern indicates an anomaly in the automation system (col. 5 lines 45-52).

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 13-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Thomas Pham; whose telephone number is (703) 305-7587 and fax number is (703) 746-8874. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30AM- 4:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *John Follansbee*, can be reached on (703) 305-8498 or via e-mail addressed to [*joh.follansbee@uspto.gov*]. The fax number for this Group is (703) 308-5403.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [*thomas.pham@uspto.gov*].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Thomas K. Pham
Patent Examiner

tp
March 31, 2003

Ramesh Patel
RAMESH PATEL 3/31/03
PRIMARY EXAMINER
For John Follansbee